



# AXEMAN REPORT

## JANUARY 2007



### FROM THE CDR

Dear Family & Friends of Alpha Company 1-121st FA BN,

Greetings and Happy New Year from Kuwait. I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

Well, by the time you get this month's edition of the Axeman Report, we will have past the half way point of our deployment and begun the downhill trek on this mission. As I say that, let me put to rest any and all rumors that may have spread back home. There's been plenty of talk based upon the President's announcement of expanding troop strength in Iraq and the extension of tours for units already here in theater. As of right now, we are not part of that plan. I will not speculate what the future holds for us other than the Battalion Commander's guidance is our mission continues on as originally planned. You have my solemn pledge that if anything changes, I will immediately inform MG Libby and his Staff of those changes.

I applaud MG Libby and the State Staff for their proactive measures in seeking and distributing situational updates to members of the Maine National Guard and their families. I've shared these messages with my Battalion Commander and his staff and they are impressed by the candor and sense of urgency in disseminating up-to-date information. This is just another prime example why Maine leads the way . . . "As Maine goes, so goes the nation".

The battalion continues with its aggressive acquisition of improvements to our equipment and combat platforms. Our soldiers are currently going through the NET (New Equipment Training) fielding for the M1117 "Guardian" ASV (Armored Support Vehicle) . . . the same improved vehicles that SECFOR I have been fielded and are using. Our initial group of soldiers have recently returned from this training and are currently conducting continued sustainment validation training in our area. In addition, as with any fielding of new equipment, the attention and interest of the Command Group has increased. Recently, the battalion was visited by the Commanders and Command Sergeant Majors of the 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command and 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command Group. Alpha Company was selected to conduct the information presentations and the crew of **SSG Gary Jandreau (MEARNG)**, **SGT Russell Perry (NVARNG)** and **SPC Christopher Corrente (NVARNG)** rose to the occasion. All did an outstanding job and the Commanders were extremely impressed.



Conducting an informational briefing on the M1117 "Guardian" ASV to COL Don S. Cornett Jr., the 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group Commander, are from l. to r.: SGT Russell Perry, COL Don S. Cornett Jr., SSG Gary Jandreau, and SPC Christopher Corrente .



Receiving an informational briefing on the M1117 "Guardian" ASV are from l. to r. (foreground): COL Don S. Cornett Jr., the 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group Commander; CSM Rossie Peters, CSM of 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command; MG Thomas D. Robinson, Commanding General of 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command; LTC Scott Rice, Battalion Commander of 1-121<sup>st</sup> FA; SGT Russell Perry, NVARNG; SPC Christopher Corrente, NVARNG; and SSG Gary Jandreau, MEARNG.





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In addition to the M1117 fielding, the soldiers have been busy assisting in the installation and upgrade improvements to our M1114 Up-Armored HMMWVs (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles). Lead by our stellar maintenance section and extremely talented and versatile motor sergeant, **MSG Stephen Channell (MEARNG)**, your soldiers have out worked and out produced the contractors here in theater in making the same improvements on other vehicles. Their work and efforts are really making a vital and important difference in the safety and execution of our missions. Alpha Company Maintenance Section soldiers are: **MSG Stephen Channel, SFC Thomas Davis, SSG Francisco Corona, SGT Manny Arredondo, SGT Jamie Flores, SGT Carlos Velasquez, SGT Edelmark Villaspín, SPC Gary Cooper, SPC Daniel Fischer, and SPC Manolo Lucido**. Other soldiers temporarily assigned to assist in the upgrade improvement process are **SGT Michael Albert, SGT Joseph Wireman, and SPC Aaron Priest**.



Working in the maintenance area making improvements to the M1114 HMMWVs are (above) SGT Michael Albert and (below) SGT Jamie Flores.



As the holidays and New Year came and passed, there are numerous individuals and organizations that we'd like to send special thanks to for thinking of us during this season.

Thanks to: **Busta, Shelagh, Jonathan, Amanda, & Ben** for another round of cases of **Up North – The Moosehead Magazine**, a really great publication; the ever faithful **Janet Hall** and the troops from the Girls Scouts of the Kennebec Council – Troop #1520, from Mexico, Maine, continuing their support with personalized packages. Thank again to troop members: **Ellie Hall, Abbey Pinkham, Shannon Laugauskas, Stephanie Cushman, Kelsie Blanchard, Kristin Arsenault, Brooke Young, Leah Perry** and **Taylor Smart**; and Troop Leaders **Janine Young, Tracy Pinkham, and Michelle Cushman**; to **Mrs. Debbie O'Hara** from Caribou, Maine who sent a care package of goodies including candy, newspapers and magazines to us through the Caribou FAC; to **Susan Sylvester** and the scouts of **Den #5, Pack #599** in Livemore, Maine for the personalized Christmas Cards; to **Donald Grotton, Post Commander of Augusta Post 205** and all individuals and volunteers who contributed to the over 600 Christmas Cards and drawings; to **Kim Nichols** and the cub scouts of **Pack #25** in Hermon, Maine for the patriotic care packages (we loved the red, blue and silver star decorations); to **Chris Blackie** and cub scout **Pack #76** of Old Town, Maine for the personalized Christmas Cards; to **Mrs. Betty Donovan, President of Friends of Maine Hockey** and their organization for their continued support and the copies sent of their Monthly Newsletter . . . "GO BLUE"!!!!; and for the upcoming holidays . . . to the **Freeport Flag Ladies** for the Valentines Card and candies for each soldier; and again to **EVERYONE** who I might have missed. Bless you all!!!



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SFC Scott Poulin receives a package during a recent mail delivery from SSG Peter Lawrence.







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The troops continue to be extremely busy executing their missions. As we reached the halfway point of our tour, the milestone marks continue to be impressive. Your soldiers have professionally executed over **550 missions** while traveling over **780,000 miles**. As impressive as those numbers are, what continues to make me proud is the response that the company receives from the units we support in our missions. Countless times the units we've escorted have commented how professional your soldiers have conducted themselves while performing their missions and have specifically asked for this Company for the next and future missions. I am extremely proud of each and every soldier in this company.

As you'll read in the First Sergeants section, congratulations to all the troops on their recent promotions and awards. You can find more pictures on the awards received during the recent 1-121<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion Awards Ceremony in the platoon sections and "Closing Shots" section. You should be extremely proud of each and every one of your soldiers.

As always, to all our family and friends, we say thanks. We love and miss you all. Keep the letters and packages coming and know you are always in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

Finally, to my daughter Logan, who recently had her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday . . . Happy Birthday Babygirl. I love and miss you very much. See you soon.

Until we chat again.

v/r

**CPT Kent A. Cousins**  
Commander  
Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)  
**"Axeman 6"**

## Go Black Bears!!!!



## From The "Top"

Hello from Alpha Company!

We now have just less than six months before our projected return home. Well, a couple days under six months. Believe it or not we've already started early planning. Today's Army may be lean and mean, but it still takes a lot of advance planning to make major things such as redeployment, happen. There are schools to plan for, actual demobilization, and even a celebratory party or two. And it takes a couple of redwood trees for all of the paperwork involved in advance planning.

Otherwise, the holidays are over now, but we continue to hear from local groups who haven't forgotten us, such as the ever-faithful Girl Scouts of the Kennebec Council – Troop #1520 of Rumford, ME; Cub Scout Pack #599 from Livermore, ME; students from Hodgdon High School, Hodgdon, ME; the Second Grade Class of Benton Elementary School, Benton, ME, and the Third Grade Class of William Ferron Elementary School, Las Vegas, NV. The effort and the support of these children, their notes and cards and the packages they've put together mean a lot. Thank you!

Moving on, we've had several NCO promotions this month:

<b>SGT Bobby J. Aleman,</b>	<b>NVARNG</b>
<b>SGT James A. Barnard,</b>	<b>MEARNG</b>
<b>SGT Ralph L. Bartman IV,</b>	<b>MEARNG</b>
<b>SGT Colt K.L. Bulot,</b>	<b>NVARNG</b>
<b>SGT Michael P. Harrington,</b>	<b>MEARNG</b>
<b>SGT Allen R. Rood,</b>	<b>MEARNG</b>
<b>SGT Nathan D. Williams,</b>	<b>MEARNG</b>

And we've had one reenlistment/extension:  
**SSG Johnny T. Deal,** **NVARNG.**

The following Soldiers have also received awards for actions, including for missions inside the Iraq Theater of Operations:

Army Commendation Medal with Valor:  
**-SSG Gregory L. Sanchez,** **NVARNG**





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(Awards Continued)

Army Achievement Medal:

-SGT Colt K.L. Bulot,	NVARNG
-SFC Joel K. Chaffee,	NVARNG
-SSG Roger T. DeCoster,	NVARNG
-SPC William C. Greeley,	MEARNG
-SSG Michael R. Hall,	MEARNG
-SSG Justin L. Harris,	NVARNG
-SPC Patrick W. Hennessy,	NVARNG
-SPC John M. Holland,	MEARNG
-SGT John S. Randall,	AZARNG
-SPC James N. Trapp,	AZARNG
-SPC Aaron M. Whittier,	MEARNG
-SGT James Worcester,	MEARNG

And finally, two more fine Soldiers from our Company NCO and Soldier of the Quarter Board went forward to compete at the battalion level and did an outstanding job. They are:

SGT Brian R. Poplin,	NVARNG
SPC Ryan P. Wroblewski,	NVARNG

To return to an earlier topic, we've reached an important milestone. At that place in the deep South during pre-deployment training, a year sounded like a very long time. Yet it's passed by so fast. I'll probably mention it again, but it really is true. It's gone by so fast it's unbelievable, and fortunately, with very few casualties.

Until next month, take care and be safe!

**1SG Paul M. Eubank**

First Sergeant

Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)

**"Axeman 7"**



## HQS PLATOON

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day from the Axe-Men of Northern Kuwait!

Yes, VALENTINE'S DAY!

Before we go there, New Year's Eve was pretty quiet here. There were no wild parties or celebrations. It was just your typical celebration of having coffee, soda, watching a DVD or listening to a CD, or playing a computer game. Unless the Soldier was on a mission into Iraq, and a few were.

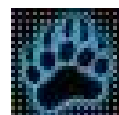
Anyway, a few Valentine candy and marshmallow items are already showing up in the mail. In the next couple of weeks a lot of Soldiers will start ordering flowers and candy for their wives and girlfriends for that special day. Some might even boast of how they won their wife or girlfriend's heart when they sipped champagne out of her high-heeled shoe or slipper (work with me here – we're talking about romance, okay).

Of course, we're sure that none of our Soldiers ever tried to impress their favorite lady by sipping champagne out of an open-toed shoe – but other Soldiers, well, they're from Wisconsin, you know.

Wives, girlfriends, marriage and engagements, love and Valentine's Day – not even war can distract our Soldiers from the important things in life.

Next year will be different, and that's a promise! Other than that, not much has happened with the HQ Platoon this month. We remain busy of course, supporting the convoy security escort missions throughout Iraq with our own gun trucks. We don't have as many gun trucks as the other platoons, but the HQ Platoon is well represented on these missions.

Due to the diligence and dedication of our medics, our medical training is up to date and refresher training is always available. Our Tactical Operations Center remains the best in the battalion due to innovative leadership and experience. Our Communications personnel, attached to HHB, continue to go "above and beyond" to support our battalion and continually troubleshoot problems for convoy units coming up from the south.







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One group we've never mentioned before, and we've been remiss in not doing so, is our mechanics. They're a great bunch of Soldiers and technically among the best. Day and night they troubleshoot maintenance issues that the crews have run into a dead-end on. They upgrade the armor on our gun trucks, and when necessary they repair combat damage. Without our mechanics from Maine, Nevada and Arizona, our ability to conduct our mission would soon grind to a halt. They're among the silent group of warriors that when everything is going smoothly, people sometimes forget them. But when a gun truck grinds to a halt, they're the first Soldiers everyone starts shouting for.

And finally, we now have under six months left to this deployment!

Take care, be safe, and we'll see all of you soon!

The Axe-Men of Northern Kuwait

**SSG Stanley Hampton**

Admin NCO

Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)

**"Axeman Historian"**

## 1st PLATOON

Greetings!!

We have passed the half way point of our deployment, Your husbands, fathers, sons and boy friends have done an outstanding representing you and the U.S. Army. Here are some photos celebrating some of the accolades bestowed upon them for their exemplary performance.



A rare occurrence these days; the entire platoon back at CSC Navistar to take part in a promotion ceremony.



**SGT James Barnard (right) receives his promotion orders from Platoon Leader CW2 David Cheny (center) while Platoon Sergeant SFC John Martin looks on.**



**SGT Roger Willett (left center) renders a salute to Platoon Leader CW2 David Cheney (right center) after being "pinned" as a new Sergeant. Looking on are Squad Leader SGT Leonel Paradise (left) and Platoon Sergeant SFC John Martin (right).**





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Platoon Leader CW2 David Cheney (right center) attaches SGT Allen Rood's new rank (left center). Looking on are Acting Squad Leader SGT Scott Morgan (left) and Platoon Sergeant SFC John Martin .



Platoon Leader CW2 David Cheney waits to take over the formation with a helicopter approaching over head.



Platoon Leader CW2 David Cheney (right center) "tags" the new rank on SGT Andrew Moores (left center). Looking on are Acting Squad Leader SGT Scott Morgan (left) and Platoon Sergeant SFC John Martin .



Platoon Sergeant SFC John Martin reads the Creed of the Non Commissioned Officer for the newly promoted Sergeants in his platoon as MSG Paul Kinsey waits patiently to "welcome" the new NCOs to the Corps.







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1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Soldiers Receiving Combat Action Badges at the recent 1-121<sup>st</sup> FA BN Awards Ceremony:



**SGT Andrew Bugbee**



**SGT Dennis Troxell**



**SGT Allen Rood**



**SPC Jeffrey Gardner**



**SPC Daniel Eggert**



**SPC Donald Brinkman**





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**SPC Rober Callaway receiving the Combat Action Badge from COL Don S. Cornett Jr., 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group Commander.**



**SPC Aaron Whittier receives the Army Achievement Medal from LTC Scott Rice, 1-121<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion Commander..**

Please help keep your soldier focused the remaining work ahead of us. We all look forward to reuniting with you in a few short months.

Until next time,

**SFC John Martin**  
1st Platoon PLT SGT  
Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)  
"Axeman 15"



## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLATOON

Hello from 2nd Platoon Alpha Company.

Second platoon spends most of their time on the road doing convoy security missions. One hundred years ago we would be writing home about our horses but we have Humvees now so let me tell you about those.

I want everyone to go to their nearest Hummer dealer and take a test ride. Check out the upholstery and the sound system. Play with the adjustable seats and fiddle with the climate control. Measure the cargo space in the back and look at the adjustable suspension designed for a comfortable ride. You could even watch a movie on the built-in DVD player. See if you can get it equipped with the "On star" system, I hear that's really nice. Hummers are fairly high off the ground so you may need a stepladder to get inside. While you test drive keep us in mind. After all, we are riding in a humvee too.

Our humvee rides considerably lower to the ground. That's what helps lower the center of gravity and keeps us stable. To keep the height down the army was good enough to put the transmission in between the drivers and passengers' seat in the front of the cab. Our hummer is seven feet wide and the transmission takes a three and a half foot bite right out of the middle. Take away another six inches on either side for the door and door handles and you have twenty-one inches for each rider in the front. Not much room for even the smallest and skinniest soldier even if they were naked. Trust me, we aren't

Our sound system is mounted on a rack bolted over the hump of the transmission. We have two multi channel two-way radios with both clear transmission mode and frequency hopping encrypted mode. Depending on who you want to talk to you need to know if they are on clear channel or encrypted. As you sit down in the passengers seat its very hard to see the controls so we learn to change channels by feel. I and everyone in my truck can reach over left handed in the dark and count how many clicks right we are from start and know who's net we are on. Our sound system comes complete with headphones, a microphone and a selector switch so we can choose which radio to talk over.





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The headphones pick up the traffic on both radios and the internal crew intercom so on a busy night you can listen to multiple simultaneous radio traffic and use your selector switch to talk to anyone of the three. One last thing, the headphones are jammed up inside your Kevlar helmet and on hot days and long convoys they might be there for twelve hours.

We also have our version of "On star". Bolted to the side of the radio rack facing the passenger is our five by nine inches by three inch thick GPS, Global Positioning System, receiver. Next to that in my truck is the Satellite communication setup. This consists of an eight by six inch metal case with a five by seven video screen inside. Hinged on the bottom of the case is a flip down keyboard with a built in mouse pad and arrow keys. It is angled toward the passenger and the keyboard when flipped down takes another six inches of your space. No matter where we are in Kuwait or Iraq we are touch with base even if outside of radio range.

The upholstery in our humvees is really special. The bottom seat cushions started out as an inch and a half of foam rubber covered with green canvas. After long use they end up being about three quarters of an inch. The passengers' seat sits on top of the battery compartment and gets very hot on long trips. The seat back is straight up and down and not adjustable. I am a fairly small guy and when I am in the seat there is just enough room between my legs for my rifle. I pity the bigger men. Our gunners have a seat under the hatch in the center of the vehicle consisting of a two-inch piece of canvas sling from on side to the other. After ten miles he either wants to stand up, not wise, or his legs fall asleep. When he sits in the sling facing forward his knees touch the radios. There are two seats in the back. One has our medical emergency bag seat belted in. The other has our cooler.

Inside the vehicle we have extra storage space. On a rope across the back of the vehicle we hang our gas mask and our night vision glasses during the day. Under the gunner we stack extra ammunition and usually keep five hundred rounds of .50 cal as well as extra flares and smoke grenades. Under the driver we keep a fire extinguisher and our landing zone marking kit. The extra POL, (petroleum, oil and lubricants), we put under the rear seat with the cooler on it

We are blessed with a large trunk. In there goes the tow bar, tow strap, and slave cable for use as a jumper cable. There is a toolbox about the size of a footlocker with tire changing tools, an electric corded impact wrench and the control cable for our rear-mounted winch. We normally keep two or three cases of bottled water and two or three cases of Gatorade as well as a case of MREs'. There are also two five-gallon jugs of diesel fuel with the necessary spout. For long road trips we also toss in our rucksacks and sleeping bags. We close the trunk by having two people stand on it and jump up and down until it latches.

The humvees exterior has a nice streamlined appearance. On the front in addition to the two headlights we have two fog lights and a go light. The go light is a very bright spotlight mounted on the roof and controlled by a joystick next to the passengers' right knee. In the center front of the bumper is a six-foot pole that we can latch in the down position so it looks like the vehicle is jousting. That pole has chains hanging down for "other purposes". The side is relatively unencumbered though we recently installed another inch of armor plate on each door for additional protection. The back of the hummer has two eight-foot radio antennas as well as the spare tire and electric winch.

One thing our humvee has plenty of is get up and go. We towed a broken down humvee for a considerable distance. At a curb weight of fifteen thousand pounds empty that is no mean feat.

In addition to the same amenities as an H2 our humvees also have some nice extras. Our gunner has is equipped with a wide assortment of heavy hitting weapons effective with some long ranges. In addition to those "crew served" weapons, he also has his own rifle, a pistol and a shotgun. Each person in the cab also has a rifle and a pistol as well as a sharp knife for cutting away the seatbelts.

So go down to the local Hummer dealer and take a test ride. While you are riding think of us because chances are that with the differences time zones we will all be riding at the same time.





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A squad from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon ready for a mission.



Squad Leader SSG Scott Sjoberg (center by HMMWVs) reads the NCO Creed at the promotion ceremony of (from left to right center) SGT Michael Harrington, SGT Ralph Bartman, and SGT Nathan Williams as Platoon Leader 1LT H. Michael Gary (right center) and Squad Leader Michael Hall (far right) look on.



Gunner Jeremiah Cuevas sits atop his crews new M1117.



SGT Richard Aveau (right) welcome "tags" newly promoted SGT Ralph Bartman (left) to the NCO Corps as SGT Guy Marquis (center).



Gunner Jeremiah Cuevas sits atop his crews new M1117.

All of us here in Kuwait wish our families back home the best in the New Year.

Until next time.

**SSG Michael Hall**

2nd Platoon Squad Leader

Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)

**"Axeman 21"**







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### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLATOON

#### AXEMAN 35 BAGHDAD BLOG

HAPPY HOLIDAYS ALL from 3rd Platoon! Last month we missed getting in some holiday messages from the troops, so to make up for it, here are some greetings from members of Kinsey's Crusaders.

I would like to wish my family Merry Christmas (Merry Christmas Lori, Kristian, Talon!) And I would like to thank all the other Maine families for their tremendous outpouring of support and encouragement. I am truly awed and humbled by your patriotism, and the way you have "adopted" us and taken care of your own. Thanks Maine families! And I wish all of you Happy Holidays as well.

**SGT Michael Coughran**

Once again I just want to give a special thanks to our Family Support Group, and their leaders. There's nothing like opening a care package up! We know a lot of love went into it.

**SGT James Kendall**

Thank you everyone for your support, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**SGT Gil Reeder**

Well first off I would like to wish everyone back a home "Happy Holidays" and best wishes through the New Year. I also would like to give special thanks to the Family Support Groups who have been working very hard on keeping the Troops families informed as best they can and to the many Support Groups that are sending the much appreciated and needed care packages. You guys are doing such an awesome job in helping to sustain a level of morale that enough thanks cannot be said, "Thank You Very Much!"

**SPC Nathan McDougall**

Thank you for your support to our Unit while deployed to Iraq. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (See You in 2007)

**SFC David Moulton**

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and God Bless all!

**SGT Colby Ford**

Happy Holidays to all those back in "Funland"

**SSG Nunes**

I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve my country in my life time.

**SPC Benjamin Pesis**

This MESSAGE is for those who support us in a time when things are not right. The support has made us know that there are people who still care about what we are doing over here. To know this means a lot to me and other members of the Armed Forces. So I would like to take this moment to thank you all for your hard work and support.

THANK YOU!

**SGT Salvador Orozco**

Until next month, be safe and best wishes.

**MSG Paul R. Kinsey**

3rd Platoon PLT SGT

Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)

**"Axeman 35"**



**A convoy catching shade in BIAP (Baghdad International Airport) area.**



**Peace under palms . . . SPC Nate McDougall.**





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**SPC Philip Fred and SFC Douglas Perez standing atop of a destroyed T-62 tank.**



**SGT Johnny Deal opens a recently received Care Package in his Gun Truck.**



**SGT Brian Green geared up and ready to go.**



**From l. to r.: SPC Daniel Cruz, SGT Jared Thompson, and SPC Nate McDougall pose for their new album cover . . . (you should hear them sing!!!).**







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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry  
6400 N. Range Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89009



### 4th PLATOON

4th Platoon "Ghostriders" January News.

With the New Year there was no let up in activity for the Ghostriders. The majority of the platoon was on the road anywhere from the northern and western portions of Iraq or executing the "normal" daily missions. 1st Squad was on a marathon mission that lasted almost 3 weeks. It is not uncommon for the platoon to only see each other in passing at the various FOBs across the country. The large number of missions also brought with it the need for extra maintenance in order to keep our vehicles mission ready. Thanks to the hard work from the various maintenance sections and the crews, the platoon managed to juggle both mission priorities and the much needed maintenance.

If that wasn't enough, **SFC Richard Deutch** planned, resourced, and executed a "Less than Lethal" shotgun class for all Soldiers and Sailors here at CSC Navistar. That initiative allowed the Soldiers and Sailors to qualify on the use of that system, thus giving them one more option in potentially dangerous situations. A special thanks to **SSG Brougner** and **PO1 Bates** from ASG Kuwait for their excellent instruction.

Of course we approached the 6 month mark of our tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While it seems like a long time from now, we are already in the early stages of planning our exit strategy. Reviewing records, determining soldier career pathways, and ensuring that soldiers are aware of the benefits available keeps us all busy, but getting an early start will pay off when it is finally time to leave.

We also had the chance to welcome 2 Soldiers into the NCO Corps as **SPC Bobby Aleman** and **SPC Colt Bulot** were promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations them both and continued success in the time-honored Corps of Non-Commissioned Officers.

**MSG John Bersalona**  
4th Platoon PLT SGT  
Company A, 1-121st FA BN (SECFOR)  
**"Axeman 45" a.k.a. "Ghostrider 45"**



Ammo Man.



Buried Turret.



SPC Robert Callaway.





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Ghostrider 7.



In Memory.



Helping Hands.



SFC Cory Smethurst.



The Hostest with the Mostest.



Shotgun Training.





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### Closing Shots



**"CAV Coffee Break"** . . . From l. to r.: 1LT Frederick Garcia, SFC Richard Deutch, MSG John Bersalona, and MSG Paul Kinsey relax on a recent "scouting" visit to CSC Virginia.



Posing with the US Flag on a recent mission in Iraq are from l. to r.: SPC Joshua Masse (in HMMWV), 1LT H. Michael Gary (holding flag), SGT Samuel England, 1LT John Gates, SPC Freeman Sprague (holding flag), and SGT Seth Jensen (in HMMWV).



Posing in front of the M1117 "Guardian" ASV are from l. to r.: CSM Rossie Peters, CSM of the 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command; SGT Russell Perry; LTC Scott Rice, 1-121<sup>st</sup> Battalion Commander; SPC Christopher Corrente; SSG Gary Jandreau; MG Thomas D. Robinson, Commanding General of 377<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command; and COL Don S. Cornett Jr., Commander of the 336<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group.



MSG John Bersalona oversees Guidon Bearer rehearsal prior the 1-121<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion Awards Ceremony.





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### Closing Shots (continued)

Alpha Company Axemen Receiving Awards at the recent 1-121<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion Awards Ceremony.

